

the electorate will choose its national leadership in a free and fair election.

I would like to congratulate in advance all those who worked so hard to make democracy in Italy a reality.

FRED WILlich, OUTSTANDING SMALL BUSINESSMAN FROM KANSAS

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as we observe the National Small Business Week, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding small businessman from Kansas.

Fred Willich is the founder and president of an interior design company in Manhattan, Kansas, called Hi-Tech Interiors. Fred has exemplified the true character of an entrepreneur. When he started his business, Fred utilized Kansas State University's Small Business Development Center as a resource in his community. Then Fred gave back to his community in times that were difficult.

Because of this, Fred has been named the Kansas Small Businessman for the year 2001.

Our country was founded by entrepreneurs who believed in hard work, creativity, and the free enterprise system.

Fred has built on this American spirit of success through his ownership of an American small business. He should be a role model for all of us.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WILLIAM K. HURT, SMALL BUSINESS WEEK'S WINNER IN COLORADO

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, as the previous speaker just said, this week small business owners are recognized for their personal achievements and outstanding contributions to our communities.

Small businesses across America employ more than half of the country's private workforce. The contributions of small businesses impact our Nation's economy greatly, and small business owners deserve to be commended for their personal achievements as well as their contribution to society.

William K. Hurt, the owner of Shields Real Estate, is Colorado's Small Business Week State Winner. Mr. Hurt is a deserving winner as he continues to make a significant contribution to our community and our economy.

Shields Real Estate is an excellent example of a successful small business in my hometown of Colorado Springs. The business was founded in 1985 in an atmosphere not already lacking in real estate companies; but through hard work, initiative and energy, Shields has expanded its service to provide a full-service real estate firm with 22 full-time employees.

Mr. Hurt is an outstanding example of an entrepreneur who is contributing to his local community. I applaud his accomplishment and am glad to recognize him for his contributions.

Small businesses are the backbone of our Nation's economy. I hope that Congress will encourage the development and prosperity of small businesses.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ENGLISH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA NOT GETTING FAIR SHAKE FROM UNITED NATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today, as we are getting ready to adjourn, we have left the foreign relations authorization bill unfinished. I serve on the Committee on International Relations, and I was anxious to present several amendments in dealing with especially

the United Nations. Unfortunately, those amendments were not permitted.

The amendments that we are dealing with I see as being very small token efforts to improve the bill, but not really dealing with the essence of whether or not we should be in the United Nations or further funding the peacekeeping missions and doing many of the things that I believe sincerely should not be engaged in if we followed the Constitution, and many Americans agree with this.

I think we are at a point now where a growing number of Americans feel like we are not getting a fair shake from the United Nations. I have been preaching this message for quite a few years, but I believe the United Nations itself is starting to make my point.

Just recently, in the last week, the United States was kicked off the Human Rights Commission, as well as the International Narcotics Control Board. This is an affront to our dignity and ought to point out to us that, although we pay the largest amount of money for peacekeeping missions and the largest amount of dues, here it is that, because there is disagreement, we are humiliated by being kicked off these commissions.

I do not see the benefits of belonging to the United Nations. I see too many disadvantages. If it were just a discussion group and trying to bring people together, that would be one thing; but we have gone to an extreme. This is an extreme position, as far as I am concerned, to belong to the United Nations and deliver so much of our sovereignty to the United Nations today.

Essentially since World War II, we have gone to war under U.N. resolutions. No longer does the President come to the Congress and ask for a declaration of war. U.N. resolutions are passed, and we send our troops throughout the world fighting and being engaged in war. That is not the way it is supposed to be. The Constitution is very clear on when we should be involved in war.

The conditions are not improving at all. They are asking for more and more funding. At the same time we sacrifice more and more of our sovereignty. On occasion we will stand up and say no, we do not want to participate in the Kyoto treaty or the International Criminal Court, and that is good. But the whole idea of this world government under the United Nations I think is something we should really challenge.

Just January of this past year, it was noted that the United Nations proposed for the first time, although not ready to be passed, that we have an international tax placed on currency transactions to raise billions of dollars to be spent for international activities. Now, you say well, that is probably just a proposal and it will never happen. But even today, in Bosnia, the United Nations peacekeepers over there are tax collectors. There are not enough revenues being collected for certain governments, and the UN peacekeepers are